Recruitment in Defence Forces from AP

802. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to raise additional recruits from the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that recruitment to defence forces is less from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what are the details of steps proposed to recruit qualified youths from Andhra Pradesh into the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Regular rallies are being organised in the State for recruitment to the Army.

Pay parity of Defence scientists

803. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence scientists are unionising themselves to fight for their demands for pay parity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to resolve their demands and settle the matter amicably?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Capacity of Jabalpur Vehicle Factory

804. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the production capacity of vehicle factory at Jabalpur;

(b) whether the factory achieved its maximum capacity of production;

(c) if so, the details regarding production during the last five years;

(d) whether Government took decision for direct placement of orders with M/s Telco and M/s Ashok Leyland for vehicles for Army; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Vechicle Factory, Jabalpur (VFJ) set up in late 60s had a capacity to manufacture 9000 military vehicles in the payload categories of 3 Ton, 1 Ton and 0.25 Ton. The production achievement in last 4 years ending 1996-97 is as follows:—

Year	Vehicles supplied based on target/indent availability
1993-94	3850 (Shaktiman + Vahan 1 Ton + Jonga)
1994-95	3458 (Shaktiman + Vahan 1 Ton + Jonga)
1995-96	3050 (Shaktiman + Jonga)
1996-97	3192 (Shaktiman + Jonga)

Due to the changed requirement, Army have decided to procure new generation of transport vehicles in the payload category of 5/7.5 Ton & 2.5 Ton. VFJ did not have the technology to manufacture such vehicles and therefore entered into technology collaboration with M/s Ashok Leyland & M/s Telco in August/September 1998 to produce such vehicles. As per phased manufacturing programme both these vehicles are being assembled by obtaining SKD kits from the original manufacturers. Accordingly in 1997-98, in addition to Shaktiman & Jonga, VFJ also produced 5/7.5 and 2.5 Ton vehicles, the total being 3073 Vehicles.

In a period of 3 years VFJ is expected to absorb technology and produce these vehicles in-house by which time the production capacity of vehicles would also be firmed up.